

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 957
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Trial Bishop Martha J. Thomas upon the celebration of A Weekend of Appreciation in her honor.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those members of the cloth whose devout service to God and their respective communities has instilled in others the faith to follow His spiritual path; and

WHEREAS, Trial Bishop Martha J. Thomas of the House of God Church is one such distinguished citizen who radiates God's love and evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; through her great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, she has enriched the lives of the people in her congregations and her community for many years; and

WHEREAS, because of her dedication to the Lord's work and her accomplished desire to better her community, Trial Bishop Thomas will be recognized and her achievements celebrated during A Weekend of Appreciation, presented by The House Of God Nashville Headquarters Band, in conjunction with the Tennessee and Georgia Number 1 Dioceses; she will be duly acknowledged as "A Faithful and Wise Servant, Worthy of Double Honor" during the Sunday Culmination to be held on April 2, 2006, with an address given by Keynote Speaker Bishop John Lott, Jr., of Detroit, Michigan, who is the Presiding Prelate of Kentucky, Alabama, and Northwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, Trial Bishop Thomas received her bachelor's degree from Alabama State University, and holds a master's degree in Christian Counseling from the International Seminary in Plymouth, Florida; she has completed additional studies at Florida Memorial College, Miami Dade Junior College, and the University of Miami; and

WHEREAS, Trial Bishop Thomas is a former school teacher for grades 7-12 in the Dade County, Florida, Public Schools System in Miami, and the Glynn County Public School System in Brunswick, Georgia; she is also the former Executive Director of The House of God Academy and Bible College; and

WHEREAS, during her spiritual career, Trial Bishop Thomas has dutifully served as Pastor and Assistant Pastor in Brunswick, Georgia; Delray Beach, Florida; and Pompano Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, as Prelate Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee and Georgia Diocese Number 1, Trial Bishop Thomas is a noted author, religious educator, church representative, and civic activist who has won the respect and admiration of her peers and colleagues for her service to her Lord through numerous assignments and leadership roles within House of God, Which is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Without Controversy, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Trial Bishop Thomas currently serves as President of the International Missionary Outreach Society of The House of God Church, Keith Dominion, and as Pastor of Headquarters Church in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, she also serves as the Assistant Editor and General Secretary in the Headquarters Office of The House of God Church Organization in Nashville, and is the Consultant/Advisor of the National Youth Department and The House of God Academy and Bible College; and

WHEREAS, devoted to the spread of the Word to all students, Trial Bishop Thomas is the author of Universal Sunday Bible School lesson, Missionary Units of Study, youth books, and other church literature; she is also the organizer of International Missionary Outreach Society summits, a member of both the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and International Minister's Fellowship, and conducts Pentecostal revivals and conferences; and

WHEREAS, her professional and civic accomplishments aside, Trial Bishop Thomas is committed to the highest ideals of family values; she is most grateful for the tremendous love

and companionship that she shares with her beloved husband, Deacon John R. Thomas, and their two sons, Felix A. Thomas and Marcus J. Thomas and his wife, Tenille E. Davis; and

WHEREAS, Trial Bishop Thomas's outstanding career as a dynamic and compassionate Pastor and an active civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on God's grace, her dedication to the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and her uncommon ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a woman of Trial Bishop Thomas's stature walks among us, and it is important that we honor her for her strong character and selfless good works and also recognize her for her life of purpose and commitment to God; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Trial Bishop Martha J. Thomas, Prelate Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville and Georgia Diocese Number 1, and Pastor of House of God, Which is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Without Controversy, Inc., Keith Dominion, for her life's work and for her years of devotion to spreading the Good News, and we join with the congregation of The House of God Church in celebrating A Weekend of Appreciation in her honor, as we extend our best wishes for a happy and successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.